

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 9411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, PINR, PINT, PGOV, PE

SUBJECT: GENERAL CALLEGOS NAMED MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

REF: LIMA 9377

1. TODAY'S GOVERNMENT-OWNED CRONICA REPORTS THAT DIVISION GENERAL ENRIQUE VALDEZ ANGULO RESIGNED ON NOVEMBER 6 AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. BRIEF GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE MAKES NO MENTION OF REASON BEHIND RESIGNATION, NAMELY EPSA SCANDAL (SEE REFTEL AND PREVIOUS). VALDEZ IS DUE TO RETIRE FROM ARMY ON JANUARY 31, 1975.

2. BRIGADIER GENERAL ENRIQUE CALLEGOS VENERO IS TO BE SWORN IN TODAY AS NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. ACCORDING TO BIO IN CRONICA, GALLEGOS WAS BORN IN CUZCO ON AUGUST 4, 1924. HE WAS NUMBER ONE IN HIS CLASS AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY AND WENT ON TO A SERIES OF INFANTRY ASSIGNMENTS. HE STUDIED AT THE FRENCH SUPERIOR SCHOOL FOR WAR. IN 1963, GALLEGOS HEADED AN AGRARIAN REFORM COMMITTEE IN THE TROUBLED CONVENCION VALLEY (NEAR CUZCO). IN 1968, IT WAS GALLEGOS WHO LED THE ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND THE OUSTER OF PRESIDENT BELAUNDE. SUBSEQUENTLY, GALLEGOS SERVED ON COAP (PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE), COMMANDED THE VI MOTORIZED DIVISION IN TACNA, HEADED THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) AND WAS COMM-
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ENDING THE LIMA ARMORED DIVISION AT THE TIME OF HIS APPOINT-

MENT TO AGRICULTURE.

3. GALLEGOS IS A TESTED SUPPORTER OF PRESIDENT VELASCO; HIS KEY POSITIONS SINCE 1968 EVIDENCE THIS. HE IS ALSO CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT OF THE YOUNGER GENERALS. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, VELASCO WOULD LIKE SOMEONE LIKE GALLEGOS TO SUCCEED HIM. BOLIVIA'S AMBASSADOR TO PERU, JULIO SANJINES, WAS A CLASSMATE OF GALLEGOS AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY; HE HAS COMMENTED THAT GALLEGOS IS PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER. WHILE GALLEGOS HAS AT VARIOUS TIMES IN THE PAST BEEN DESCRIBED IN EMBASSY REPORTING AS FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES AND ANTI-COMMUNIST, NEITHER OF THESE SIMPLICATIONS IS ACCURATE. ABOVE ALL, GALLEGOS IS A DEDICATED NATIONALIST WHO SUBSCRIBES TO THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTION AND ITS "THIRD WORLD", ANTI-IMPERIALIST (PRIMARILY AMERICAN) FIXATION. HE IS CLOSE TO THE FRENCH AND ISRAELI EMBASSIES. HE ALSO PROBABLY DISTRUSTS PERUVIAN COMMUNISTS BUT SEEMS MORE THAN WILLING TO DEVELOP GOOD TIES WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

4. CRONICA REPORTS THAT GELLEGOS WILL RUN THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY UNTIL IT IS SPLIT INTO TWO MINISTRIES: "AGRARIAN REFORM AND NATURAL RESOURCES" UNDER GALLEGOS AND "FOOD" UNDER HOYOS (SEE REFTEL). CORREO STATES THAT THE SPLIT WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE IN JANUARY.
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